



Iowa Utilities Board

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds

Geri D. Huser, Chair
Elizabeth S. Jacobs, Board Member
Nick Wagner, Board Member

October 13, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Business Data in an Internet Protocol Environment, WC Docket 16-143; Investigation of Certain Price Cap Local Exchange Carrier Business Data Services Tariff Pricing Plans, WC Docket 15-247; Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket 05-25; AT&T Corporation Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Special Interstate Special Access Services, RM 10593

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Thank you for your continued efforts to improve broadband access in rural America and promote competitive broadband markets. Today we write to urge you to consider all facts in the record related to current levels of competition, as well as all of the potential consequences related to the above referenced proceedings.

We share the Commission's goal of increased investments in networks, while enhancing competition among providers of business data services. As you and your colleagues work toward a final rule, it is paramount, that you acknowledge where competition has developed and design policy that will continue to encourage investment throughout our state. To accomplish this, the Commission must include the information provided by the major cable operators earlier this year. This will ensure that competitive markets are accurately identified, resulting in appropriate application of regulation.

Iowa has many rural areas. High cost, rural communities rely on robust investments in networks that connect small businesses, educational institutions, and hospitals, and enable economic development. Without these investments, our rural communities will be challenged for survival in the 21st century global economy. Failure to acknowledge competition will decrease the level of investment in these areas.

We strongly encourage you to make a final decision that considers the impact to jobs and investment, not only in our state but other states as well. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Geri D. Huser
Chair

Elizabeth S. Jacobs
Board member

Nick Wagner
Board member